(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) when such Centres and Planetariums are likely to set up in Uttar Pradesh particularly?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 27 Science Centres developed and run by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture. In addition, 13 Science Centres have been developed by NCSM but run by State/UT authorities. Some of the Science Centres have planetarium as its component. The function of a science centre is to develop scientific attitude and temper and to create, inculcate and sustain a general awareness amongst the people.

(b) to (d) Setting up of Science Centres is a part of the ongoing programme of Ministry of Culture under the Science Cities scheme. The proposals received under the Scheme from various State Governments including Uttar Pradesh from time to time are examined by the Government of India in conformity with the approved norms/guidelines of the scheme subject to availability of resources.

Financial assistance for Art in Goa

2353. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to give financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life, who may be in indigent circumstances;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme is in force in the State of Goa;

(d) if so, the financial assistance given so far to the applicants from the State since the commencement of the scheme;

(e) the number of persons covered; and

(f) the contribution made by the Central Government and the share contributed by the State Government alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance is provided under the scheme to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life, who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents. To be eligible under the scheme a person should have attained the age of 58 years and the personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs. 2000/- per month. His contribution to art and letter etc. must be of significance. The Government has bifurcated the scheme into two parts *viz.* (1) Central Quota and (2) Centre-State/UT Quota. Under the Central Quota the beneficiary is given an assistance of Rs. 2000/- per month by the Central Government and under the Centre-State/UT-Quota the amount of assistance is shared by the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 3:1 *i.e.* Centre pays Rs. 1500/- per month and balance Rs. 500/- per month is borne by the concerned State Government. The financial assistance is sanctioned/ renewed depending on furnishing of Life and Income certificate by the beneficiaries.

(c) to (f) The scheme covers the entire country including the State of Goa. From the State of Goa, in 2007-08 Life and Income certificates were produced by 5 beneficiaries in Central Quota and 6 in Centre-State Quota, who were sanctioned a total amount of Rs. 1,20.000/- (Rupees one lakh and twenty thousand) and Rs. 1,08,000/- (Rupees one lakh and eight thousand) respectively by the Central Government.

Angkorwat Temple as " Wonders of the World"

2354. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the overseas Indians had demanded for inclusion of famous Angkorwat Temple into the wonders of the world;

(b) whether Government intends to provide knowledge related to features to the Indian students;

(c) the names of temples which have become famous during the last three years and the names of countries where these temples are situated; and

(d) whether the Heads of the States of these countries participated in the inauguration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A private organisation called the New 7 wonders foundation, was behind the New 7 Wonders of the world campaign and has announced 7 New Wonders of the World. Government of India was not associated with this campaign in any manner. Angkorwat Temple was one of the 21 monuments short listed by the foundation but did not find a place in the final list.

There is no information available in this regard

Commemoration of 300 Years of Passing away of Guru Gobind Singh

2355. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the significance of 300 years of the passing away of Guru Gobind Singh, in October, 2008;

(b) whether Government proposes to highlight the role of Guru Gobind Singh so that people in India and abroad are made aware of his revolutionary interfaith and spiritual roles;

(c) the plan of Government to highlight the only interfaith spiritual Holy Guru Granth Sahib since 300 years of its installation as living diety, is being celebrated in October, 2008; and

(d) the details of the schemes, expenditure and the dates on which these are to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India is commemorating Tercentenary of Guru-ta-Gaddi of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. A National Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Home Minister and under Co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra to approve policies, plans, programmes and supervise and guide the commemoration of Guru-ta-Gaddi celebrations.